

Message Text

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FM AMEMBASSY CAIRO

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 3806

INFO USMISSION GENEVA

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

AMEMBASSY OSLO

AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV

USMISSION USUN

C O N F I D E N T I A L CAIRO 7111

EO 11652: GDS

TAGS: ILO PORG EG

SUBJECT: POSSIBLE EGYPTIAN BEHAVIOR AT WORLD EMPLOYMENT CONFERENCE

REF: STATE 125753

1. REFTEL SUGGESTS THAT EGYPTIANS (OR OTHER ARABS) HAVE MADE UP THEIR MINDS TO PRESENT RESOLUTION HOSTILE TO IMMIGRATION TO ISRAEL AT WEC. RECENT CONVERSATIONS WE HAVE HAD WITH GOVERNMENT AND WORKER DELEGATES HERE INDICATE THAT THIS MAY NOT BE THE CASE, AT LEAST INsofar AS EGYPTIAN INTENTIONS CONCERNED. THIS CAME OUT MOST CLEARLY IN MEETING WITH ILO DEL AHMAD FAHIM, DIRGEN OF FOREIGN LABOR RELATIONS AT MANPOWER MINISTRY, WHO ENVISIONED SCENARIO WHEREIN VIEWS HOSTILE TO MIGRATION TO ISRAEL WOULD ONLY BE EXPRESSED DURING SCHEDULED DISCUSSIONS OF MIGRATION IN GENERAL AND BE NOTED IN CONCLUSIONS OF CONFERENCE. FAHIM CREATED IMPRESSION THAT EGYPTIANS, TOO, COULD BE SATISFIED WITH CONCLUSIONS AS OPPOSED TO RESOLUTIONS. IT NEVERTHELESS CLEAR THAT EGYPTIANS STRONGLY BELIEVE THAT MIGRATION TO ISRAEL, EVEN IF POLITICAL RATHER THAN PURELY TECHNICAL SUBJECT, IS LEGITIMATE TOPIC WHICH INSEPARABLE FROM GENERAL QUESTION OF MIGRATION AND MUST BE DISCUSSED.

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2. IT MAY ALSO BE WORTH NOTING THAT FAHIM DESCRIBED EGYPTIANS AS UNCONVINCED THAT WEC SHOULD INDEED BE CONSIDERED A PURELY TECHNICAL CONFERENCE (HE OFFERED LONG BUT LUCID LEGAL ANALYSIS FOR THIS DOUBT) WHERE POLITICAL QUESTIONS COULD NOT BE DISCUSSED. HE SAID THAT ILO GOVERNING BODY, UNDER INFLUENCE OF NED PERSONS, HAD IMPOSED DUBIOUS STATUS AND RULES ON WEC, PARTICULARLY THOSE WHEREBY WEC STEERING COMMITTEE HAD EXPRESS POWERS TO EXCLUDE, BY SIMPLY MAJORITY, ALL RESOLUTIONS WHICH IN ANY WAY POLITICAL. (WE UNABLE SAY IF HE CORRECT ON THIS LAST POINT.) FAHIM DID NOT STATE DIRECTLY THAT ARABS WERE TARGET OF THIS SCHEME, BUT SUGGESTION WAS DISTINCTLY IN THE AIR.

3. IT ALWAYS POSSIBLE THAT EGYPTIANS PLAN TO PRESENT THEIR RESOLUTION AT ILO GENERAL CONFERENCE OR EVEN BE CONTENT TO LET BROTHER ARABS LEAD THE FRAY WITH SAME RESOLUTION AT WEC. DECISION HOW EGYPTIANS WILL BEHAVE, HOWEVER, RESTS WITH FONMIN AND, ACCORDING TO FAHIM, DELEGATION UNLIKELY TO RECEIVE INSTRUCTIONS BEFORE LAST MINUTE.
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